



Role of the Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission and PADLS in Pennsylvania Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture's [Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission](#) is an integral part of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. Created by [Act 148 of 1988](#), the commission provides a combined approach to diagnosing and investigating disease in farm animals. Act 148 established a dedicated funding source and a panel of agricultural experts that were tasked with developing methods and steps to deal with disease outbreaks. Key animal health, research, and diagnostic programs are coordinated through the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS).

[PADLS](#) is comprised of three facilities: the State Veterinary Laboratory, Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, and the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. The system delivers rapid and precise veterinary diagnostic services to protect animal and human health, and the safety of the commonwealth's food supply.

Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission Members	
1	Sec of Dept. of Agriculture
1	Sec of Dept. of Health
4	Chair / Minority Chair of House/Senate Agriculture Committee
3	Governor Appointed Veterinarians
6	Governor Appointed Active Farmers
15	Total Members

Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System
PADLS
Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory - Harrisburg, PA
Penn State - Animal Diagnostic Laboratory - University Park, PA
Univ. of Pennsylvania - New Bolton Center - Kenneth Square, PA

Prior to 2012/13, the General Fund supported the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission. Between 2013/14 and 2018/19, the commission received appropriations from the Race Horse Development Fund. In 2020/21, additional General Fund support continues to complement continued appropriations from the Race Horse Development Fund.

Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission / Pennsylvania Veterinary Lab Funding				
(amounts in thousands)				
General Fund	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21*
Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 833
Race Horse Development Fund	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350
Pennsylvania Veterinary Lab	\$ 5,309	\$ 5,309	\$ 5,309	\$ 5,309
Total	\$ 10,659	\$ 10,659	\$ 12,659	\$ 11,492

*Enacted 2020/21 General Fund Appropriation represents 5/12ths budget (Jul - Nov)

University of Pennsylvania - School of Veterinary Medicine

The University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine supports Pennsylvania agriculture in important ways. Penn Vet educates the majority of practicing veterinarians in the commonwealth and delivers research and medical solutions to the industry. Founded in 1884, the School of Veterinary Medicine is the only veterinary institution in the commonwealth.

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Center for Infectious Disease receive annual state appropriations. Dedicated funding for Penn Vet helps assure the continuation of its educational significance, as well as support for the crucial role it plays within the agricultural industry.

University of Pennsylvania - Veterinary Activities / Center for Infectious Disease GF Appropriations					
(amounts in thousands)					
Appropriation	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
University of Penn - Veterinary Activities	\$ 30,135	\$ 30,135	\$ 31,039	\$ 31,660	\$ 31,660
University of Penn - Center for Infectious Disease	\$ 281	\$ 281	\$ 289	\$ 295	\$ 295
Total	\$ 30,416	\$ 30,416	\$ 31,328	\$ 31,955	\$ 31,955

Pennsylvania State University - College of Agricultural Sciences

The Pennsylvania State University is deeply rooted in the agricultural community through its College of Agricultural Sciences, [Penn State Extension offices](#), and its animal diagnostic laboratory. As part of PADLS, the animal diagnostic lab provides disease control and health management of livestock, poultry, fish, and wildlife. The university's agricultural role is directly supported by annual state appropriations.

Pennsylvania State University Dept. of Agriculture Appropriation				
(amounts in thousands)				
General Fund	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Transfer to Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund	\$ 52,313	\$ 53,882	\$ 54,960	\$ 54,960
Total	\$ 52,313	\$ 53,882	\$ 54,960	\$ 54,960

Setting Sights on Biosecurity

Biosecurity efforts to protect Pennsylvanians from infectious diseases and reduce the risk of invasive species that harm crops and livestock are critical to the Department of Agriculture, the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission and their partners in PADLS. The General Assembly's focus on biosecurity is evident with the adoption of the PA Farm Bill package as part of the budget in 2019/20. The following table highlights past and current budgetary efforts on biosecurity within agriculture.

The commonwealth's continued support of the Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission, Pennsylvania's Veterinary Lab, Penn Vet/Center for Infectious Disease, and Pennsylvania State University helps ensure Pennsylvania's agricultural prosperity and success of its biosecurity mission.

General Fund Agricultural Biosecurity Funding					
(amounts in thousands)					
Appropriation	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21*
Avian Flu	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Spotted Lanternfly Control	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -
Agricultural Preparedness & Response	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,667
Livestock and Consumer Health Protection	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 417
Total	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,084

*Unused Avian Flu funds from 2016/17 are available in case of a critical need in 2020/21

*Enacted 2020/21 General Fund Appropriation represents 5/12ths budget (Jul - Nov)

